



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 27, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County - present
Nate Marvin, Commissioner, Washington County - (present via Zoom)
Tom Dale, Commissioner, Canyon County – present
Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner, Owyhee County – present
Viki Purdy, Commissioner, Adams County – present
Sam Summers, MD, Physician Representative – present
Bryan Elliott, Commissioner, Gem County - present

STAFF MEMBERS:

Nikki Zogg, Katrina Williams, Brigitta Gruenberg

Via Zoom: Doug Doney, Troy Cunningham, Clay Roscoe, Ashley Anderson, Rachel Pollreis, Carol Julius, Jaime Aanensen

GUESTS: Approximately 24 members of the public attending in person; Guests viewing live stream via SWDH You Tube page.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nikki requested that an informational item for Executive Council Update under Director's Report be added.

MOTION: Commissioner Purdy moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public presented public comments to the Board of Health members.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Nancy Reyes, Nurse Family Partnership RN, introduced herself to Board of Health members.

APPROVE SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Board members reviewed the September 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes. No changes were noted.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Dale moved to approve the September 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Hanigan seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.

SEPTEMBER 2020 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORT

Troy Cunningham, Financial Manager, presented the September 2020 Expenditure and Revenue report. For the month of September, 25% was the target for revenues and expenditures.

The CARES funding submissions for reimbursements have not yet started.

GROUNDWATER PRESENTATION

Brigitta Gruenberg provided a groundwater presentation. She explained the IDAPA rules and regulations as well as the internal standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Brigitta provided a brief overview of septic systems and explained that for a basic individual septic system, pumping is recommended every three to five years. Groundwater monitoring is encouraged much more frequently. She explained that groundwater contamination is a concern because if a drain field is placed in or near the seasonal high or normal groundwater the drain field *will* eventually contaminate the ground water. To prevent this, groundwater monitoring before placing a drain field is critical. Brigitta explained the importance of homeowners and contractors monitoring groundwater weekly especially during the season of April 15 through October 15 and recording the data. Environmental Health Services staff is available to spot check the data.

Brigitta also explained the term secondary treatment system which allows a septic system to be installed a foot above groundwater. A normal system requires four feet separation. The combination of groundwater monitoring, modeling, and test holes really helps ensure groundwater is appropriately protected.

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

Doug Doney reported that efforts to operationalize the COVID-19 response continue. Binax Now tests are being administered at Southwest District Health (SWDH). The SWDH School Liaison Team continues to work closely with schools. The top three reported exposure sources for students are friends, activities and classes during school hours, and school activities including sports or dances.

The SWDH Public Information Team continues to work on the new external website <https://ahealthiersouthwestidaho.gov> which provides public service announcements in Spanish and English. Collaboration continues with the City of Nampa and other city and community partners as well to identify other public service announcement opportunities. Holiday guidance documents are under development.

Nikki provided information regarding hospital capacity. Nikki explained that she has been on calls this week with hospital partners and they are concerned with the influx of patients from the Magic Valley into the Treasure Valley. Right now, the Treasure Valley is handling its COVID patients okay as the numbers trend upward. If our area continues on an upward trajectory, patients being diverted to the Treasure Valley from surrounding areas are expected to create a challenge.

Nikki clarified that SWDH does not issue requirements or mandates for long term care facilities but does provide guidance and recommendations. She also clarified that SWDH has no licensing authority over long term care facilities. In addition, Nikki explained she is aware that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) may have specific preventive requirements in these facilities.

CLINIC OPERATIONS UPDATE

Carol Julius, Clinic Services Division Administrator, provided an update on clinic services. She invited Board members over to the clinic to receive an influenza vaccine.

Sub-grant funding for increasing influenza coverage among high-risk populations has been received. Team members will be going to community sites and will consider a possible drive-through type of clinic at a fire station. In addition, walk-in and Saturday clinics are being considered.

Carol also explained that two part-time nurse practitioners (1 day per week) will be recruited. Recruiting for a Program Manager 2 to help manage the clinic and grow the clinic toward the vision of meeting school needs will also begin.

Southwest District Health is working to expand testing capacity for active testing for COVID-19 utilizing the Binax Now test kits recently received. This test requires minimal training, no special equipment and can be performed in various settings. Currently, SWDH is conducting a validation exercise, comparing Binax Now to the gold standard of in-laboratory PCR testing. The end goal will be to have a rapid response team to assist with testing when needed off-site, and to offer testing in Caldwell, Payette, Weiser and Emmett health district offices.

A Southwest District Health registered nurse representative will be available at the Marsing School Nursing Program one day per week and may advance to more days pending funding possibilities.

Southwest District Health continues collaborating with Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) to complete a demonstration project on wastewater analysis as a way to effectively monitor COVID-19 virus levels specifically for congregate settings. This project will use college students living in dormitory facilities. Dr. Roscoe explained that the project may also evaluate this approach for public schools.

SWDH COVID-19 HEALTH ALERT LEVEL UPDATE

Board members asked to review the Southwest District Health COVID-19 Health Alert Level metrics monthly. Rachel Pollreis, Research Analyst, Sr., presented updates for the Southwest District Health COVID-19 Health Alert Levels. She described current levels and where the region is trending currently.

On a district level about a 70% occupancy in ICU beds is being seen. In-patient beds are at approximately 60% occupancy with 10% being allocated for COVID-19 patients.

Within the health alert level system, no metrics have been added or removed. Some metrics are holding more weight than previously. An example is educators input section. Most schools are operating to some extent at an in-person level. The increase in cases in schools align with what is being seen in the community. We are seeing transmission in households. Schools have implemented quarantine and isolation measures.

MOTION: Dr. Summers made a motion to continue to utilize the health alert levels metrics and updates. Commissioner Hanigan seconded the motion. One opposed; motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Council Report

The Executive Council has a scheduled meeting on Thursday, 10/28/2020, to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

Auditors Exit Interview

A brief summary of the auditors' exit interview was emailed out to board members. Zwygart John and Associates has finished the onsite part of the audit. They will meet with a couple of SWDH staff regarding one of the past findings. Nikki expects that all four of our previous years' audit findings should be resolved. Auditors reviewed sixty WIC recipient files and noted one error. In the review of those files the error was not a systemic event and is not considered a finding. Auditors also provided feedback around how to establish direct cost allocation. This feedback is not a finding rather it is an explanation of best practices. The final audit report should be available prior to the end of the calendar year.

Public Health Symposium

The annual public health symposium is scheduled for November 17, 2020 and staff are working to secure meeting space at an outside location to allow additional attendees for the public health symposium portion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:47 a.m. Board members went into Executive Session. Roll call taken; all in favor of going into executive session.

Board members came out of executive session at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board

Approved as written:



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Dated: November 17, 2020